

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one thermoplastic polymer; and (b) melt processing a combination of (iii) and at least one of (i) and (ii).
2. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein either said ionic salt or said fluorochemical repellent is combined with said at least one thermoplastic polymer to form said combination, and the other is topically applied to a surface of the melt-processed combination.
3. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation comprising an organic onium cation ~~being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations~~, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one thermosetting polymer or

ceramer or the reactive precursors of said polymer or ceramer; and (b) allowing the resulting combination to cure.

4. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the step of applying a topical treatment composition to at least a portion of at least one surface of at least one insulating material, said topical treatment composition comprising (a) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation ~~comprising an organic onium cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations,~~ and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal; and (b) at least one fluorochemical repellent.

5. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein a first topical treatment composition comprises said ionic salt, a second topical treatment composition comprises said fluorochemical repellent, and said first and second topical treatment compositions are sequentially applied to said portion of said at least one surface.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) forming a solution by dissolving (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation ~~comprising an organic onium cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations,~~ and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a

hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one insulating material in (iv) at least one solvent; (b) casting or coating the solution on to at least one substrate; and (c) allowing evaporation of said at least one solvent.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a water- and oil-repellent, antistatic composition comprising the steps of (a) forming a polymerizable composition by combining (i) at least one nonpolymeric ionic salt consisting of at least one cation and at least one anion, said cation ~~comprising an organic onium cation being selected from the group consisting of monovalent metal cations, divalent metal cations, and organic onium cations~~, and said anion being a weakly coordinating anion selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, tetraarylborates, carboranes, halogen-substituted carboranes, alkyl-substituted carboranes, haloalkyl-substituted carboranes, metallocarboranes, teflates, and fluoroorganic anions, the conjugate acid of said anion having an acidity greater than or equal to that of a hydrocarbon sulfonic acid, and with the proviso that said anion is organic or fluoroorganic when said cation is a metal, (ii) at least one fluorochemical repellent, and (iii) at least one monomer; and (b) allowing polymerization of the monomer to occur.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said combining step comprises forming a blend of the ionic salt, the fluorochemical repellent and the thermoplastic polymer, and said melt processing step comprises melt processing the blend.

9. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said melt processing step comprises an extrusion step.

10. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said melt processing step comprises a molding step.

11. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 further comprising an annealing step.

12. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said cation comprises an organic onium cation and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.

13. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 3 wherein ~~said cation comprises an organic onium cation and~~ said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 3 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

16. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 4 wherein ~~said cation comprises an organic onium cation and~~ said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.

17. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 4 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

18. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 6 wherein ~~said cation comprises an organic cation~~ and said at least one weakly coordinating anion comprises a fluoroorganic anion.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 6 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 7 wherein said at least one weakly coordinating anion is selected from the group consisting of alkane sulfonates, aryl sulfonates, alkaryl sulfonates, perfluoroalkanesulfonates, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)imides, tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, cyanoperfluoroalkanesulfonylamides, bis(cyano)perfluoroalkanesulfonylmethides, bis(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides, and tris(perfluoroalkanesulfonyl)methides.